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CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE

URGENT SPECIAL APPEAL

Campaign Against Arms Trade supporters sued by COPEX International Ltd

HELP DEFEND CAAT AGAINST THE COPEX LIBEL ACTION WE NEED MONEY TO DO IT

Supporters of the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) are being sued for libel by COPEX International Ltd which organises the "Covert Operational Procurement Exhibition" at Sandown Racecourse in Esher, Surrey. A number of people who took up the suggestion in the April CAAT newsletter to write to the manager of Sandown about COPEX have been issued with writs.

Legal action began when the organisers took exception to references to the exhibition made in CAAT News. They have now issued a writ for libel naming eight people whose names appeared in the April and June CAAT newsletters. Legal action against letter-writing supporters followed shortly after.

The exhibitors at COPEX include companies supplying riot control, counter insurgency equipment and public order weapons. Specialist law enforcement and intelligence agencies are among the groups targeted for attendance at COPEX. Among those countries represented at the 1994 COPEX were Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Israel, Singapore, Colombia, Mexico and Algeria.

CAAT is determined vigorously to defend the action. However, legal fees are expensive and CAAT is facing huge bills and your help is needed urgently. CAAT has made enormous progress as a campaigning organisation over the last three years:

British Aerospace Campaign

CAAT has generated a growing campaign against the sales made by British Aerospace to various repressive regimes throughout the world. Following CAAT's publication of an alternative report in 1994 and 1995 and shareholder actions at the BAe AGM in both years CAAT has obtained media attention and widespread publicity against the arms trade.

STOP THE GENOCIDE IN EAST TIMOR
STOP SELLING HAWKS TO INDONESIA
SAY YES TO PEACE
CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE
TOGETHER WE CAN
STOP THE HAWKS

With your help we'll keep the campaign moving!

CAAT, 11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ

Future Generation

CAAT also has a vibrant student and youth network , one which had 3 contacts in 1993 and now has over 40. In 1995 CAAT led the campaign to ensure that Fernando De Araujo, imprisoned East Timorese student leader, was elected honorary vice-president of the National Union of Students at the national NUS conference in March.

Clean Investment

Extensive coverage in the local and national press has generated a wave of dis-investment from arms companies by church bodies and health trusts. CAAT has produced a quality clean investment pack to keep the momentum going and extend the success to local councils.

Exhibitions

This year again saw a demonstration at the Royal Navy and British Army Exhibition in September at Aldershot. A silent march ended with remembrance of all the victims of the arms trade and was followed by a symbolic invasion of the arms fair led by the CAAT Youth and Student Network.

CAAT is obviously going to contest the COPEX case. Our future campaigning depends on your help now. The individuals who have also received writs from COPEX International Ltd also need your support. This action has implications for the entire peace movement and every campaigning organisation that uses letter writing. There is simply too much at stake to allow ourselves to be silenced by COPEX International Ltd.

Please return the slip today. If you cannot afford to make a donation in one go you can take out a standing order. The case will not come to court for some time and a standing order will enable us to build up funds to fight the case.

Yours

Sue Brown Ann Feltham Will McMahon Jen Parker

Return to: CAAT, FREEPOST LON 6486, London N4 3BR

I want to help CAAT defend itself against COPEX and keep campaigning to stop the arms trade. I enclose a donation of:

☐ £1,000 ☐ £500 ☐ £250 ☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £_____Other

Please make all cheques payable to CAAT

☐ Tick here if you require acknowledgement.

☐ Please send me ___ copies of this COPEX appeal letter.

☐ I would like to take out a standing order, please send me a form.

Name:

Address: